

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66624  
DRAFTED BY:NEA/IRN:MAGMICHAUD  
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NEA/IRN - MR. MORTON  
S/S/O: R. WRIGHT  
NEA/INS - MR. LEADER

----- 063022

R 080445Z NOV 73  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T STATE 217508

EXDIS

FOL STATE 217508 SENT ACTION LONDON INFO TEHRAN JIDDA  
ACTION NEW DELHI NOV 6 FROM SECSTATE REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 217508

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MARR, U.K.  
SUBJ: INDIAN OCEAN TASK FORCE

REF: A. LONDON 12819  
B. STATE 217485

1. GRAHAM, HEAD OF CHANCERY, BRITISH EMBASSY CALLED  
ON US TODAY TO CLARIFY STATE OF PLAY REGARDING U.K.  
SUPPORT TO HANCOCK TASK FORCE. GRAHAM FIRST ASKED IF  
WE COULD PROVIDE ANY AMPLIFICATION ON THE MISSION OF  
THE TASK FORCE. HE WAS TOLD THAT THE DEPLOYMENT WAS  
SECRET

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CONSISTENT WITH OUR INDIAN OCEAN POLICY WHEREBY OUR  
SMALL, PERMANENT NAVAL PRESENCE (COMIDEASTFOR) IS  
PERIODICALLY AUGMENTED BY TEMPORARY DEPLOYMENTS OF U.S.  
NAVAL RESOURCES DRAWN FROM OUR PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC  
FLEETS. WE CONSIDER SUCH DEPLOYMENTS BOTH PRUDENT AND

WISE AS IT DEMONSTRATES OUR CAPABILITY TO OPERATE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA WITH AUGMENTED NAVAL FORCE. ALTHOUGH GRAHAM INDICATED THAT THIS WAS NOT FULLY RESPONSIVE TO LONDON'S INTEREST IN HAVING A MORE PRECISE NOTION OF THE PURPOSE OF HANCOCK DEPLOYMENT WE DID NOT FURTHER ELABORATE.

2. TURNING TO AREAS OF U.K. SUPPORT OF THE TASK FORCE GRAHAM CONFIRMED ARTHUR STATEMENT CITED IN REF. A. THAT RN WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST TO EXTENT POSSIBLE ON REFUELING IF THIS BECOMES PUBLIC UK WILL TAKE LINE THAT RECIPROCAL REFUELING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN RN AND USN A TRADITIONAL PRACTICE OF LONG STANDING.

3. GRAHAM ALSO INDICATED THAT USN P-3 AIRCRAFT COULD UTILIZE DIEGO GARCIA FOR CONDUCT OF SURVEILLANCE MISSIONS. WE NOTED THAT NUMBER INVOLVED WOULD PROBABLY RUN TO 2-3 AIRCRAFT. IF THESE OPERATIONS SEEP INTO PUBLIC DOMAIN UK PROPOSES TO TAKE LINE THAT AIRCRAFT ARE ENGAGED IN TEMPORARY ROUTINE MARITIME AIR RECONNAISSANCE ACTIVITY AND AS SUCH ARE OPERATING IN FULL ACCORD WITH 1966 BIOT AGREEMENT.

4. GRAHAM THEN STATED THAT INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS HERE BETWEEN US AND UK MILITARY ON POSSIBLE USN AIRCRAFT USE OF MASIRAH AND GAN PRESENTS HMG WITH CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES. IN GRAHAM'S VIEW GAN DEFINITE NON-STARTER DUE TO MALDIVIAN SENSITIVITIES ON NON-COMMONWEALTH COUNTRY USE OF AIRFIELD. HE EXPRESSED HOPE US WOULD NOT PRESS MATTER FURTHER. MASIRAH NEARLY AS DIFFICULT AS APPROVAL OF SULTAN OF OMAN AND MUSCAT WOULD BE REQUIRED. IN ANY EVENT THIS QUESTION WOULD HAVE TO BE PUT TO BRITISH MINISTERS. IN GRAHAM'S JUDGMENT, POSITIVE HMG RESPONSE WOULD REQUIRE MUCH MORE COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION FROM US ON MISSION OF HANCOCK TASK FORCE THAN HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO DATE.

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5. SUGGEST THAT YOU DRAW ON FOREGOING IN YOUR FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSIONS WITH FCO TO CONFIRM THAT GRAHAM'S PRESENTATION OF HMG VIEWS DOVETAIL WITH FCO'S.

6. WE HAVE JUST SEEN TEHRAN 7720. IN VIEW OF SHAH'S RESPONSIVENESS WE DO NOT WISH TO PRESS BRITS FURTHER ON MASIRAH OR GAN. ACCORDINGLY REQUEST YOU ADVISE ARTHUR THAT WE ARE MOST GRATIFIED WITH HMG COOPERATION ON REFUELING AND P-3 USE OF DIEGO. HOWEVER, WE FULLY RECOGNIZE POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES FOR HMG INVOLVED IN USN USE OF MASIRAH AND GAN. ACCORDINGLY WE DO NOT INTEND TO ASK HMG FOR SUCH USE AT THIS JUNCTURE.  
KISSINGER UNQUOTE  
RUSH

SECRET

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**TAGS:** MARR, UK, XO  
**To:** TEHRAN  
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